

A

# REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

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Saturday, April 23. 1709.

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While we are thus assur'd from all Hands, that the Misery of the French is very great, their Finances in the utmost Disorder, their Treasure exhausted, and their publick Credit broken; it is not a little strange, that all our Accounts from the *North* are full of the Expectation they are in of an Invasion again from the *France*.

That there are a great many People in either Part of this Island, that are willing to have it so, I make no question of, and perhaps are therefore willing to please themselves with the Hopes of it, tho' they see no probable Ground for the Expectation; on the other hand, perhaps these People may think, that it is some Service to their Cause to spread such Reports, and

put forward Suggestions, as an Amusement to the Nation, serving to keep the Friends of the Government in Apprehensions and Suspence on one hand, and if possible to make us keep Troops on the other hand for Prevention; and partly to buoy up the sinking Spirits of another Sort of People among them, who are kept together as a *Party*, and supported in their Aver-tions to the Government, only by such Dreams these.

I know, some People have made loud Clamours at our leaving *Scotland* unprovided with Forces, and urg'd to have a Body of Men kept there, that should not think of retreating to *Berwick* upon an Enemy's Landing — Whether these People would have more Troops rais'd for this Purpose, or

or whether they would have the Forces abroad lessen'd to do it, they have not yet told us — If they would have more Troops rais'd, they ought to tell us how we shall raise them, as well as how to raise the Money for their Support; which to any Man that knows the Difficulty of raising Recruits these two Years, for the Forces we have, will not appear an easie Work, nor were it easie, would these new Forces be fit to trust with opposing an Invasion in *Scotland*. — Nor is the encreasing our Charge (tho' that ought not to be a full Reason) a light Matter — On the other hand, if these People would have Troops call'd home, and our Forces abroad lessen'd, at the same time, that all allow the Augmentation of Troops abroad so absolutely necessary; if this be the Motion, it is a very friendly one for the *French*, and I need say no more, it is all they aim at.

But after all, the Intelligence, these Gentlemen keep with Foreign Affairs, must be very little, if they do not know, that the *French* Affairs are at too low an Ebb on one hand, and our Naval Force has been too ready all this Winter, to put any such Attempt upon us — We have had formerly a great Stir made about our wooden Walls — And yet now the same Gentlemen, that were of the Opinion they could protect us from all the World, dare not trust our wooden Walls to defend us against a single Squadron, and the Efforts of a baffled Enemy; but we must come to a standing Army to be kept at home, and quarter'd upon the Country, to eat up our Friends for Fear of an Impotent Enemy.

The Government has all along taken this by a different Handle; the Rumours of an Invasion have not been so great as to disorder and affright, nor have they been so small as to leave us naked — Therefore, tho' certain Intelligence has from Time to Time assur'd us, that the *French* were in no Condition for such an Attempt, that whatever Equipment of Ships were talk'd of, there was yet no Shipping, either of Troops, Stores, Ammunition, Arms, &c. which must be in Case of an Invasion; yet the Lord High-Admiral, to prevent all possible Surprize, has kept from 25 to 40 Men of War always ready in the several Ports during the whole Winter.

This is the Equivalent to furnishing of Magazines, and placing of Armies in *Scotland*; if we have 40 Men of War at Sea, ready to meet the Enemy, upon the first Intelligence, the Party in *Scotland* may make their Despair very rational, the *French* are in no Likelihood to relieve them — I do acknowledge readily, the discourag'd Circumstances of the Enemy are not to be rely'd on, nor are the *French* to be contemn'd. — But I think we may venture to say, that when by certain Accounts from thence we know there is no Appearance of the least Preparation, when we know they are not in a Posture for such a Project, nor in a Condition to execute it — And at the same time we have a superior Naval Power to prevent them, if they did — It favours of that unhappy Spirit, that has always kept us uneasy, to be beating the Alarm at every Turn, and keeping us waking with apprehensions of an Enemy at our Door.

Let it suffice us, and let us be thankful for it; the Enemy are in no Condition for such an Attempt, our Army in *Flanders* is a Guard to *Scotland*, they will find the *French* better Employment, their Hands are likely to be too full, and their Heads too, to look so far *North* — I believe, I am not too arrogant in saying, that tho' we ought never to contemn an Enemy, so as to be secure; yet we may contemn this Enemy so as to be satisfy'd; *Scotland* is many Ways safe — She is Safe in the Enemy's Weakness, and Safe in the Government's Vigilance; for while we have a victorious Army in *Flanders*, and a superior Power at Sea, they neither can spare Troops, nor, if they could, can they execute their Design.

They may, as I have said often, send a few Ships, and foment by small Assurances the restless Spirits of their Party to attempt some petty Disturbances, and if you had the whole Royal Navy in *Scotland*, you could not prevent it. But this will not answer their End, nor support their Friends. — And for a Squadron, with Troops, Stores, a Train, Ammunition, Spare-Arms, &c. to attempt the Capital, and make the Work National, without which they do nothing; This is impossible, as our Strength at Sea and their Weakness at Land, now stand.

I was the willinger to state this Case, because some People are every Day amusing us with the Return of the *French* to *Scot-land*, and the Nakedness of that Country; its unprovided Condition to defend it self, and such Things at a Time, when the *French* Power is as it were in the Pangs of Death— Its last Throws are upon it, and one Blow more gives her a Dismis from the very Class of a Kingdom, if the Victors think fit to push their Conquests to that Extent.

One may therefore without a Charge of too much Confidence say to our Friends in *Scotland*, who are in the true Interest of the Government, and whose Distractions the Enemy studies in this Matter to en-crease. *Be easie Neighbours*, and laugh at the vain Blusters of the *Jacobite* Party, when they insult you with the Return of the *French*, and the Erecting a new Government— The *French* are in no Condition for it, assure them, and I think you may do it upon good Grounds; one Year more will show them a new World; the broken Reed, their Cause rests upon, will fail them— The *French* Power will acknowledge, it can stand by them no longer, the King of *France* will abandon them, and compliment their pretending Prince out of his Domi-nions, as he did King *Charles II.* in Obedience to the superior Law of Necessity, and to prevent his being driven out himself— You may venture to assure them, the King of *France* is already too sensible of his being no Match for this Confederacy to carry on the War any longer, if he can obtain but any tollerable Condition, among which his protecting the Pretender will be none of the most difficult for him to yield up.

#### *Profit and Loss by the War, Debtor.*

To Account of Loss for Money rais'd by the Government to carry on the War— About 113 Millions.

To *Ditto*—For Ships and Goods taken by the *French*, publick and private, about 17 Millions.

To *Ditto*—For Blood-shed during the War, as well in *Ireland* as abroad, including our Seamen, &c. who have dy'd in *France*, &c. 400000 Men.

And withal, pray, forget not to put those Gentlemen in Mind, that a Time is coming, when the Government of *Britain* may not be so tame under the Insults of her Enemies, when it may not be so safe for a Party at home to fly in the Face of the Le-gal Establishments of the Nation, and bully the *QUEEN* and *Parliament*— Justice has leaden Feet, but it has Iron Hands, and when compleatly provok'd to take hold, it gripes hard, and falls heavy—

Hitherto a Party has been born with in the Nation— The Clemency of the Govern-ment has given them a long Day of Grace, has strove long to see, if Sense of Justice, if the Issue of Things, if the long Experi-ence of the Goodness of their Sovereign; in short, if Time and Truth could bring them to their Duty. But if nothing but Force, if nothing but Severity will serve, if they must be crush'd by Power, and will not be engag'd or won by Forbearance and Kindness, they must feel that Thunder they have so long despis'd; for certainly *Britain* has not spent all this Blood and Treasure to reduce the Protector of *Jaco-bitism* abroad, and should not reduce the the Thing it self at home.

I have often thought it worth while to state the Account current of this War, and bring it to a Ballance of *Profit* and *Loss*, and I think, it shall not be amiss to do so, as soon as ever we see an End of it; the *Debt*-Side I can cast up pretty well already, the *Credit* Side cannot be so well form'd till the Peace, for then comes the Return of the Voyage; but I'll give you the Heads of the Account.

#### *Profit and Loss by the War, Creditor.*

By Account of Gain for Liberty and Pro-erty recover'd by the Revolution, after it had been lost under a gradual Invasion of Tyranny for 18 Years before.

By the Toleration obtain'd by *Dissenters* on a just Capitulation with the Church of *England* for joyning in the Revolution.

By the Protestant Religion secur'd to *Bri-tain*, the *Popish* Race being expung'd, and the rightful Government of the Queen re-cognized by the *French*.

By the Protestant Succession establish'd by the Union, and assented to and secured by the Guarantie of the whole Confederacy.

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